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MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Health Dept.,
Town Hall,
Spennymoor.

May 24th, 1944.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year Ending 31st March, 1944.
Urban District Council of Spennymoor.

I have the honour to submit herewith condensed annual report on the Public Health services in the District, for the year 1943-1944. This report is abbreviated in accordance with the Ministry of Health recommendations. I therefore confine myself to a summery.

Staff.

The Council's Health Department now consists of a part-time Medical Officer, a full-time Sanitary Inspector and a Junior Clerk. With depleted staff only matters of importance can be dealt with satisfactorily.

Housing.

With the exception of requisitioned and derelict property, every house in the District is apparently occupied. Overcrowding appears to be increasing and the structural condition of dwellings generally is deteriorating, owing to the continued shortage of labour and materials for carrying out the repairs. Considerable numbers of houses scheduled for Clearence before the War, are still occupied, intervening years have further reduced their suitability for occupation as dwellings.

Tuberculosis.

During the year, a 23% increase in Pulmonary cases and a 4% increase in Non-Pulmonary cases has been recorded upon our register

Contd.,

Health Dept.,
Town Hall,
Spennymoor.
May 8th, 1944.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year Ending
31st March 1944.

Urban District Council of Spennymoor.

I have the honour to submit herewith condensed annual report on the Public Health services in your district, for the year 1943-1944. This report is abbreviated in accordance with the ministry of Health recommendations. I shall offer no further comment to a summary.

Staff.

The Council's Health department now consists of a part-time Medical officer, a full-time Sanitary Inspector and a Typist Clerk. With improved staff only matters of importance can be dealt with satisfactorily.

Housing.

[illegible]

[illegible] Unfitness [illegible] Overcrowding [illegible] Unfitness [illegible] Overcrowding [illegible] Unfitness [illegible] Overcrowding [

contd.,

This increase is no doubt due partly to increased medical supervision of the Public, also the enrolment in wartime industry of persons of a lower physical standard.

Overcrowding and black out conditions will also materially affect the incidence of this disease.

Scabies.

The Council's treatment centre has been continued during the year, two sessions each week have been held and 323 cases received the first treatment, and 443 cases the second or subsequent treatments. The response of the Public, especially the male section of the community, has been most disappointing.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Increased efforts have been made during the year to obtain 100% immunisation of all children under 15 yrs, our efforts however have not proved a success. During the year ending December 31st 1943 927 children were immunised, our totals therefore since the inauguration of the scheme are 90 children under 5 and 1800 children between 5-15 yrs of age. Our percentage of immunised children is therefore 61.7% and 58% respectively.

Water Supply.

The supply of water to this District has continued to be adequate in quantity and excellent in quality.

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This increase is no doubt due partly to increased medical supervision of the Public, also the enrolment in maritime industry of persons of a lower physical standard.

Overcrowding and black out conditions will also materially effect the incidence of this disease.

Scabies.

The Council's treatment centre has been continued during the year, two sessions each week have been held and 383 cases received the treatment, and 149 cases the second or subsequent treatments. The response of the Public, especially the male section of the community, has been most disappointing.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Increased efforts have been made during the year to obtain more immunisation of all children under 15 yrs. our efforts however have not proved a success. During the year ending December 31st 1943 327 children were immunised, our total therefore since the inauguration of the scheme are 5C children under 5 and 1500 children between 5-15 yrs of age. Our percentage of immunised children is therefore 61.7% and 30% respectively.

Water Supply.

The supply of water to this District has continued to be adequate in quantity and excellent in quality.

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Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Owing to war time restrictions the Council has been unable to carry out much needed improvements in this direction. The diversion of Middlestone Moor sewerage to the Central works at Tudhoe Village has proved satisfactory. The private drains in this area are on the whole in a defective condition. During the year 160 complaints of choked drains were invesigated and remedied by this department, many of these complaints were found to be due to the carelessness of the tenants. The necessary remedial action was taken. Certain of the Council's main sewers have also given trouble during the year, these have however been quickly remedied by the Surveyor's Dept., A survey of the condition and capacity of all sewers in the District is overdue.

Rodent Infestation.

Upon the direction of the Ministry of Food a survey of the rat population of this district was made, when it was found that the following conditions existed.

Reservoir Type Infestation.

No infestation of this type was found.

Major Primarily Type Infestation.

6 area's of this type were located.

Minor Secondary Type Infestation.

60 area's of this infestation were found.

Sewers and Culverts.

6 were found to require attention.

Council.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Owing to war time restrictions the Council has been unable to carry out much needed improvements in this direction. The diversion of Middlestone Moor sewerage to the Bearpal works at Tudhoe Village has proved satisfactory. The private drains in this area are on the whole in a defective condition. During the year 150 complaints of choked drains were investigated and remedied by this Department. Many of these complaints were found to be due to the carelessness of the tenants. The necessary remedial action was taken. Certain of the Council's main sewers have also given trouble during the year. These have however been quickly remedied by the Surveyor's Dept. A survey of the condition and capacity of all sewers in the District is overdue.

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Major Priority Type Infestation.

6 areas of this type were located.

Minor Secondary Type Infestation.

60 areas of this infestation were found.

Sewers and Gullyers.

6 were found to require attention.

contd.,

The Ministry of Food formed a group, composed of this District, Bp Auckland and Crook Urban Districts, the representatives of this group have not yet met.

Rivers and Streams.

Since the outbreak of war a satisfactory improvement has been noted in the streams in the District.

Public Cleansing.

The Urban District is now wholly cleansed by Direct Labour. Four out of every five receptacles are ash-closets, the work of the Cleansing Department therefore, is rendered most difficult. The Department under the supervision of The Sanitary Inspector, is now responsible for the collection of Salvage. The Council Refuse Tip at York Hill is now almost full and efforts are being made to obtain similar facilities at Tudhoe Colliery.

S.V.Tinsley.
Medical Officer of Health.

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Rivers and Streams.

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Public Cleanings.

The Urban District is now wholly cleaned by Direct Labour. Four out of every five receptacles are cleaned. The work of the Cleaning Department therefore, is rendered most difficult. The Department under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, is now responsible for the collection of Garbage. The Council Refuse Tip at York Hill is now almost full and efforts are being made to obtain similar facilities at Tudhoe Colliery.

S.V.Tinsley.
Medical Officer of Health.